



Mati 2023| Lolomiga 008

TAPUITEA

The Official Newsletter of the American Samoa Government

IA MANINO LE FOLAUGA

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March was National Procurement Month

The National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) - Institute for Public Procurement proclaimed March as Procurement Month to expand the awareness of the procurement professional's role to government officials, the general public, and business and corporate leaders. This year the Office of Procurement planned several activities to commemorate Procurement Month with the theme of "Value Your Service" or "*Fa'ataua Lau Auaunaga.*" The month-long celebration started with an employee wave on Friday, March 3, 2023 and joined by the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) procurement staff. On March 6, 2023, a Church Service led by Reverend Seau Taufouu was held at the Office of Procurement's Conference room followed by special remarks delivered by the Chief Procurement Officer (CPO), Dr. Ti'alemasunu Mikaele Etuale. The procurement management also recognized employees with 20+ years of service to the American Samoa Government.



Training and workshops were scheduled on Wednesdays for the staff to learn about the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), First Aid, Customer Service, and Mental Health Awareness. Fridays were dedicated to team-building activities and physical health.



The Office of Procurement staff also participated in a Service Project and volunteered their time to assist the American Samoa Red Cross with their "Sound the Alarm" project to install smoke alarms in homes. The Office of Procurement acknowledges that the purchasing process for the American Samoa Government is a team effort whereby its success depends upon the efforts and cooperation of government officials, department heads, purchasing staff, and the vendor community, and would like to thank all those involved.





Your Language is Your Gift from God

On Sunday, March 19, 2023, the Samoan Language Commission held a church service at the CCCAS Matu'u and Faganeanea, to commemorate a culmination of activities and workshops to celebrate this year's Samoan Language Month. Many in attendance included Honorable Lemanu P.S. Mauga, Honorable Talauega E.V. Ale, members of the fono, cabinet, and the commission. Also in attendance were various congregations from the Catholic Church Iliili, and the Susana Uesile Methodist Church in Tafuna.

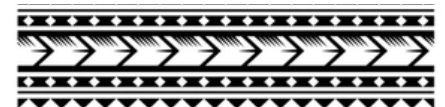
The Commission was established during the 37th legislative session and approved by the fono and signed by Governor Lemanu on April 5, 2022.

“The theme for this year’s church service is, Your language is your gift from God,” remarked Honorable Lemanu. He continued, “It is our responsibility and our duty to not only preserve our language, but to also support the development of the fa’aSamoa. It is crucial in preparing individuals, especially our youth, for more effective participation in this society and the Samoan way of life” Governor Lemanu continues to highlight that the Samoan Language is declared by territorial law as one of the official languages in American Samoa and is recognized as of equal importance with the English language in education, government, economic, and social life of the people of American Samoa.



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The Samoan Language Commission (SLC), under the leadership of Executive Director Peseta Tialuga Sunia, hosted a number of activities in the month of March. These included, lyrical, translation, and media workshops, panel discussions with Samoan scholars, clergy, and the youth. The SLC hosted it’s Aso o Tupulaga/Youth Day on March 24, 2023 at the Su’igaula Park in Utulei and concluded the month of festivities with a Samoan Summit with Former Head of State Honorable Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi as the keynote speaker.





Pago Pago International Airport Apron Rehabilitation Project Completed Under the Lemanu-Talauega Administration



Honorable Lemanu P.S. Mauga, Honorable Talauega E.V. Ale, Senate President Tuaolo Furean, Speaker of the House Savali Talavou Ale, along with several members of the cabinet, and honored guests at the Airport Apron dedication ceremony.

On Wednesday, March 22, 2023, the Department of Port Administration, under the leadership of Director Falenaoti Loi-On Fruean, hosted the dedication ceremony to commemorate the completion of the Pago Pago International Airport Apron Rehabilitation Project. Many in attendance included Honorable Lemanu P.S. Mauga, Honorable Talauega E.V. Ale, Honorable Senate President Tuaolo Fruean, honored guests, and several members of the cabinet.

The Apron Rehabilitation Project was completed in 6 phases. Phase 1 was contracted to McConnell Dowell American Samoa, and Phases 2 through 6 was contracted to Paramount Builders Incorporated.

The construction management was provided by PPG Consultants and the DPA engineer assigned to the project was Ms. Natalia Palamo. The duration of the project took approximately 7 years to include design, permitting, and construction. Phase 1 began in 2018 and was completed within 2 years. Phase 2 through 6 began in 2019 and was completed in 4 years. The Scope of Work covered a total area of 741,000 sq ft (or 17 acres) of new pavement and utilities towards the Pago Pago International Airport. Completed work included new asphalt, new pavement, 7 new fuel hydrates connecting back to the new tank farm in Lion's Park, new storm water drainage to include an oil-water separator, 6 new flood lights, to illuminate the entire apron, new pavement markings,

new emergency station and many more. According to Director Falenaoti, there were 3 funding sources for this project and the are as follows

- FAA issued 3 grants totalling to \$34,303,667
- DOI provided 2 local CID matching grants totalling to \$600,000
- ASG provided local matching funds of \$3,100,407

The total and final cost of this project came out to \$38,004,074



“We continue to improve our runways, taxiways, and aprons for the safety of the aircrafts flying into American Samoa, and we strive to maintain the highest safety standard at our airport facility not only because it is mandated in our federal regulations, but also the safety of our families traveling to and from is paramount to us,” stated Director Fruean.

“Today is the day of thanksgiving as we continue to see the Lord’s blessing not only over our government, but also our Territory,” remarked Governor Lemanu. He continued, “I commend the work of Director Fruean and your entire department as you play a vital role in our government. The airport is crucial as it is the first glimpse of American Samoa’s beauty to all travelers. Here they will see the luscious greenery of our mountains as seen on the runway and the happy faces of our people displayed across the arrival area. Here is their first taste of our culture. The airport also plays a vital role as this is the gateway to neighboring islands such as Manu’a, and it serves as another means of transportation aside from sea travel for our people.

I want to commend the hard work of our contractors who have ensured the completion and adequate apron for our Territory.”



Collaborative Efforts Between Lemanu-Talauega Administration and CCCAS Kanana Fou for Improved Access Routes

On Tuesday, March 21, 2023, the CCCAS Kanana Fou, Ua Taunu'u held its dedication ceremony to commemorate the completion of several projects on the compound, to include the Kanana Fou High School Access Road.

With the collaborative efforts of both the congregation and the Lemanu-Talauega Administration, the access road will allow for improved accessibility for emergency evacuations routes for both Kanana Fou High School and Kanana Fou Elementary. This route also opens into emergency evacuation routes for Tafuna High School, Tafuna Elementary, and South Pacific Academy. It was shared at the dedication ceremony that the increase of natural disasters in the South Pacific region has prompted the church and government to act swiftly on the matter.

“We commend the collaborative efforts of both the church and government in ensuring the safety of our people, especially our youth,” remarked Honorable Lemanu P.S. Mauga. He continued, “The effects of climate change are seen daily, and the dangers of it are inevitable. The work done here will greatly help and assist our people to seek refuge at a better response time.



Honorable Lt. Governor Talauega Ale and I would also like to commend the Congregation leaders for not only making the holy grounds a refuge for so many of our people, but also for allowing government functions to take place on the compound. You have been so gracious in opening your homes to our government and the people of the Territory.”



Contracted to McConnell Dowell, the Kanana Fou High School Access Road was funded under the Kanana Fou High School ARPA Funding under the Department of Education, totalling to \$712,722.57. The total cost of the entirety of the project (road, fence, directional signs, and renovations) with the collaboration of the church, is \$1,108,602.57.



Samoa Bowl Makes a Return Under the Lemanu-Talauega Administration

The Lemanu-Talauega Administration and the community is excited to announce the return of the Samoa Bowl. Samoa Bowl was first initiated under the Togiola administration in 2003 as an opportunity to expose the gifts and talents of our local student-athletes, and to have Samoan athletes from the US return back to their roots and experience their culture firsthand.

The Territory will be hosting the event scheduled for December 25, 2023 through January 1, 2024. A detailed schedule will be provided at a later time. With collaboration from the Department of Education, our local student athletes seeking increased exposure in their respective sports will have access to an excellent opportunity to

showcase their abilities and talent, learn new training strategies, exchange ideas and experiences, and build lasting friendships. This year's Samoa Bowl will have high school athletes & coaches arriving from off island to participate and compete with our local athlete in the following sporting events:

- Women's Volleyball
- Football
- Softball

The American Samoa Government looks forward to hosting this long anticipated event.



American Youth Football Samoa Matais to Compete in the 7 on 7 Pylon Tournament

The Chief of Staff of the Office of the Governor, Loa Tuimavave T. Laupola, met with the American Youth Football Samoa Matais (AYFS) in Hawai'i and delivered words of encouragement to the young and talented athletes. "To see you all rise to this great opportunity is a win already," stated COS Loa. He continued, "You have made American Samoa proud by simply being here. On behalf of the Honorable Governor Lemanu Mauga and Honorable Lt. Governor Talauega Ale, we wish you all the best. Play smart, play faithfully and play knowing that all of American Samoa are supporting you and we look forward to welcoming you home. "AYFS is proud to represent American Samoa and thankful to Governor Lemanu Mauga, Lt. Governor Talauega Ale and the American Samoa Government for their support," stated Victor and Gloria Avalos. Avalos continued,

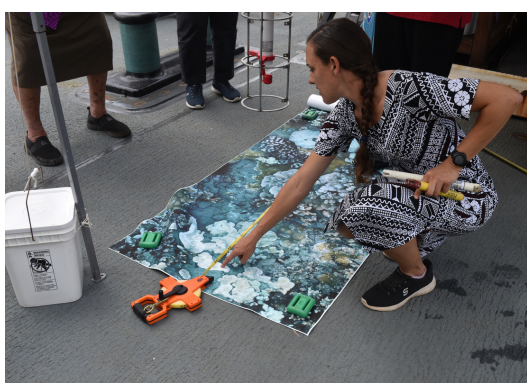
"Thank you to the local businesses and the parents for supporting the youth of American Samoa." The group returns on April 3, 2023.



NOAA Survey Ship Rainier Arrives in American Samoa

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ship Rainier arrived at the Pago Pago Harbor on March 23rd, 2023 with a total of 55 crewmembers. An official tour of the ship was conducted by Commanding Officer Hector Casanova on March 24, 2023 for the following local leaders: Secretary of Samoan Affairs Paramount Chief Mauga T. Asuega, Manu'a District Governor Paramount Chief Misaalefua Hudson, Swains Island Representative Su'a Alexander E. Jennings; Leasina District Representative Ape Mike Asifoa, and Manu'a District #2 Representative Tiaoalii Fauagiga Sai.

Commander Casanova and crew discussed the plans, daily operations, and NOAA's mission to conduct surveys to map the ocean floor and collect information on corals, fish, and changing ocean conditions. The scientists on board presented different types of measuring and monitoring methods, collection and processing of water samples, and an analysis of coral reef photographs. Secretary Asuega commended the crew for their work in American Samoa: "On behalf of Governor Lemanu and Lieutenant Governor Talauega, together with the people of American Samoa, we welcome you and support the missions you must complete here. With climate change and the damages to our shores and coral reefs, we are grateful to see that NOAA continues to study our waters to help us better understand its livelihood and its resiliency."



According to NOAA National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, these surveys are non-invasive, and do not involve taking any marine life. This information will be shared and used to update nautical navigation charts and to improve scientists and resource managers' understanding of the islands' coral reefs, also contributing to the goals of the United States Ocean Policy Committee to fully map United States' waters.

NOAA Ship Rainier is commissioned for seven months to survey the waters around American Samoa and the Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIA). The ship will be offshore around the territory until September 2023 and their expeditions will be on the islands of Tutuila, Ta'u, Ofu, Olosega, Swains Island, and Rose Atoll.





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MARCH PROCLAMATIONS

Masina o le Gagana Samoa

National Disability Month

Procurement Month

March of Dimes Anniversary Month

MARCH EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Establishing Broadband Office of
the Governor

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2-9 Holy Week

April 7 Good Friday

April 13-15 47th Annual Flag Day
Performing Arts Festival

April 14-15 Flag Day Fishing
Tournament

April 14-15 Atoa o Samoa Tradeshow